

Message Text

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16

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14

OMB-01 AID-20 DRC-01 /125 W
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R 080513Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8328

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

DOD ISA

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 2125

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, NZ

SUBJECT: CHANGES PENDING IN NZ DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT

1. A NUMBER OF CHANGES ARE PENDING IN NZ'S DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT. SECDEF JOHN ROBERTSON IS REPORTED TO BE PREPARING TO MOVE TO THE STATE SERVICES COMMISSION WHERE HE WILL TAKE OVER AS CHAIRMAN. COMMISSION IS EQUIVILENT TO US CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION. ROBERTSON TO BE SUCCEEDED AT DEFENSE BY EITHER ROD MILLER OR I.L.G. STEWART. MILLER IS PRESENTLY MFA ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION. HE IS NOT ON GOOD TERMS WITH MFA SECRETARY CORNER AND SEES A MOVE TO DEFENSE AS THE BEST WAY FOR HIM TO GO. MILLER IS KNOWN TO BE A GOOD FRIEND OF LT. GEN. WEBB, CHIEF OF DEFENSE STAFF (CDS) AND WOULD BE EXPECTED TO WORK WELL WITH HIM. STEWART IS SERVING AS NZ AMBASSADOR TO EEC AND SEVERAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. PRIOR TO HIS PRESENT ASSIGNMENT STEWART WAS AMBASSADOR TO ITALY (1970-72) AND THAILAND (1967-70). BEFORE THAILAND HE WAS HEAD OF THE MFA DEFENSE DIVISION.

2. ON MILITARY SIDE OF HOUSE, EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF AIR VICE MARSHALL ST. GOEORGE WILL BE
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RETIRING SEPTEMBER 6. HE WILL BE REPLACED BY AIR

COMMODORE RICHRD BOLD WHO IS TIPPED TO BECOME CDS
ON RETIREMENT OF LT. GEN. WEBB. WEBB'S APPOINTMENT
EXPIRES IN OCTOBER BUT IT IS REPORTED HE WILL BE GIVEN
AT LEAST A ONE YEAR AND POSSIBLY A TWO YEAR EXTENSION.
SUCH AN EXTENSION WOULD GIVE BOLT OPPORTUNITY FOR
SEASONING IN SENIOR AIR FORCE JOB BEFORE BECOMING
CDS. ARMY CHIEF OS GENERAL STAFF GEN. HOLLOWAY AND
NAVY CHIEF OF STAFF RADM. THORNE BOTH SLATED FOR
RETIREMENT UPON EXPIRATION THEIR APPOINTMENTS IN OCTOBER
1976 AND JULY 1975 RESPECTIVELY.

3. COMMENT: WE FORESEE NO DIFFICULTIES WORKING WITH
ANY OF THE ABOVE PERSONNEL. ROBERTSON, AN EXCELLENT
ADMINISTRATOR, WILL BE HARD MAN TO FOLLOW BUT EITHER
MILLER OR STEWART SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO A MORE THAN
ADEQUATE JOB.
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